



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**STATEMENTS FROM MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT AND DCASE COMMISSIONER
MARK KELLY ON RETIREMENT OF TIM SAMUELSON, CHICAGO'S FIRST-EVER
CULTURAL HISTORIAN**

"Over his nearly two decades as Chicago's official cultural historian, Tim Samuelson has been a walking encyclopedia of Chicago history and an invaluable resource to both our residents and visitors alike—not to mention three mayors. As a history lover myself, I have personally relished the moments I've had with Tim asking him questions and swapping stories on the many events, eras, and colorful personalities that've marked our city's past.

"The term 'irreplaceable' is used a lot, but it really applies to people like Tim. Whether it's serving mayors like myself, or by offering his expertise to fellow historians, businesses, journalists, politicians, museums, and more, there's simply no one else who offers what Tim does. His passion for our city's history not only shines in his boundless knowledge, but also in his work as an avid preservationist and collector where he's lent his support to our city's schools, agencies, and landmarks, along with private clients.

"When Tim was first hired as Chicago's cultural historian, he was given the mandate to 'help everybody.' On behalf of all our residents, I want to extend my deep thanks to Tim for his immeasurable "help" over these many years, as well as offer my warm congratulations to him and his family for his well-earned retirement and the new adventures that lie ahead. I know I speak for countless people here in City Hall when I say how sad we are to see Tim go, but grateful to know his own impact on Chicago's history will live on through our better understanding of our past as it guides us to build a better future for ourselves and this incredible city that we all call home."

—**Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**

"My entire team and I extend heartfelt congratulations to Tim Samuelson — and sincere thanks for his many years of service to the City of Chicago. Tim is a "Living Landmark," one of Chicago's greatest champions of preservation and our city's storied history."



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—Commissioner Mark Kelly, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)

BACKGROUND:

- Tim retired earlier this week from DCASE after serving as the City's first-ever cultural historian for nearly 20 years. As he has just begun his well-earned retirement, Tim is unavailable for interviews this week.

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